

March 20, 1984

LB 1078

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I believe I will let Senator Kahle go ahead first and then I will come in with the committee amendments after that.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Madam President and members, this is a bill that was brought to me by the Department of Environmental Control. Since 1980 the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control, called the DEC for short, has been working towards taking over the administration of the Hazardous Waste Management Program in the state. Currently the program is being run jointly by the DEC and the federal government's Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA. However, if the state does not take over full responsibility by January of 1985, the federal government will upgrade its effort and pre-empt the state. One of the requirements that the federal government has insisted upon for full delegation to the state is that the DEC has statutory authority equivalent to that of the EPA in the hazardous waste area. The Nebraska Legislature in previous sessions has made revisions in Nebraska law in order to accomplish this. Unfortunately the EPA is not always easily satisfied. Prior to the current session they came forward with an additional batch of modifications they wanted to see made into Nebraska law. LB 1078 is drafted to encompass these changes and to make some housekeeping alterations in DEC statutes. Because of the importance of the waste management program, an amendment will be offered by the Chairman of the Agriculture and Environment Committee to remove everything from the bill except EPA requirements, thus 1078 as amended will serve solely to meet the EPA requirements for delegation of the federal hazardous waste program to the State of Nebraska and I urge its adoption. I'd like to repeat again that if we don't do something, the feds will take over January 1st, 1985.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Newell, your light is on. Do you wish to speak to the committee amendments? Senator Haberman.